

INDONESIA

USAID BREAKS GROUND ON HOUSING PROGRAM ALONG THE WEST COAST OF ACEH



Muhyar Yunan of Governor's Office delivers remarks

USAID has embarked on the first phase of a US\$10 million project to construct 1,000 houses to resettle survivors of the December 26, 2004 tsunami. Through its implementing partner, CHF International, 65 houses will be constructed in Geumbak Meualon hamlet of Mon Ikeun village. An additional 57 permanent houses in Pulot village are concurrently being constructed.

Each of these villages will respectively house more than 200 people who have taken shelter in temporary camps or the homes of relatives. The houses will be constructed in compliance with building codes for permanent homes, and include special features to safeguard against earthquake

damage. A Community Resettlement Committee comprised of local villagers has helped design the homes and will work to ensure transparency throughout the execution of the project. The project will also reconstruct essential economic infrastructure in communities devastated by the tsunami, such as small ports, fishing vessels, ice-making facilities and markets.

COFFEE PRODUCTION: GROUNDS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

The City of Takengon, located in the coffee growing region of central Aceh, is benefiting greatly from a USAID initiative to increase organic coffee production. A significant number of residents of this area fled to the coast during the decades of violence. Now, subsequent to the tsunami and with peace accords in place, many of them, including large amounts of displaced persons from the tsunami, are returning to this area to return to coffee production. Employment opportunities are rapidly expanding.



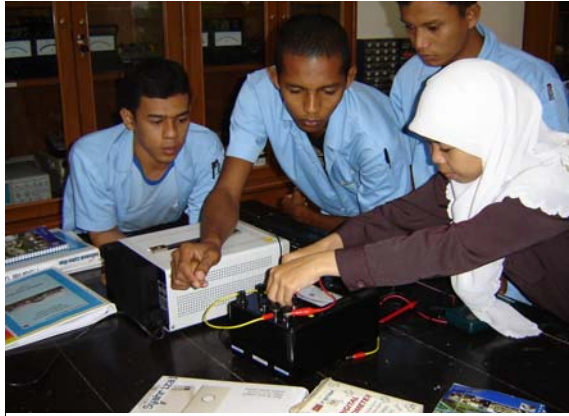
Neglected Coffee Crop to be Renovated

To provide incentives to farmers to re-cultivate this land, USAID, through the National Cooperative Business Association, provides assistance to the local coffee cooperative, which has increased its membership since the program began from 400 to over 1,500 members.

The project is laying the base for the long-term competitive position of the coffee sector in Aceh, by creating more value added for the product, which, in turn, increases profits for local farmers and employment for laborers.

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USAID AND CHEVRON SUPPORT VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Students practice wiring skills during training

The fourth and final group of 110 youth, bringing the total to the planned 330, will start their vocational training on February 19 under the USAID-Chevron public-private alliance. This group includes 27 participants from Nias Island, often neglected in post-tsunami reconstruction efforts.

USAID Mission Director William M. Frej commented, “This partnership between USAID and Chevron reflects a long-term investment in Aceh’s economic future.”

The final group will graduate in May 2006. USAID-Chevron students are finding employment when they return to their communities. One graduate has opened his own private business and recently won a contract for electrical wiring for 15 new houses in Aceh Besar. A women participant recently got a job as a bookkeeper in a private printing company in Banda Aceh. Others are working as full-time construction field supervisors. USAID established a monitoring team to follow-up with graduates of the program over the next two years.